

THE SHELTON CHRONICLE

a newsletter for faculty and staff of Shelton State Community College

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WORK KEYS WORKS

Work Keys - a program that opens doors for students in technical careers

The Work Keys program, offered through ACT, Inc., tests skills in problem solving, communication and teamwork while identifying skill levels needed by industry for specific jobs.

All of Alabama's two year colleges will develop Work Keys programs. However, Shelton is one of 12 Work Keys service centers in the state. As a service center, Shelton will be able to do its own testing and scoring of Work Keys assessments. Today in this country, vast numbers of jobs require higher skill levels than in the past and

employers are having a difficult time finding qualified employees. Work Keys helps both businesses and educators understand each other's needs.

At Shelton a small action group developed a comprehensive plan for Work Keys usage. One of the plan's first activities is student assessment which began this fall at the college. All students in Shelton's technical programs will be tested. The test results of the Shelton students will be compared to national occupational profiles developed by ACT. Students in cosmetology, welding, diesel mechanics, auto mechanics, auto body, computerized numerical control, machine technology, office administration, carpentry, turf management, electricity, drafting, air conditioning and refrigeration and electronics will be tested in October as part of the student assessment.

According to Johnny Parker, Shelton's ACT certified job profiler, the U.S. economy is running at breakneck speed competing globally. "The major thrust now in business is to assess and certify competencies. Students must have certified competencies to successfully enter the workforce. Work Keys serves as a common language and scale for both business and

education," Parker said.

Skill areas students are tested in include applied math, reading for information, writing, listening, teamwork, location of information, observation and applied technology. Working with counselors, students compare their own skill levels with those needed for specific occupations, allowing students to identify areas of needed improvement.

Also scheduled to begin soon is job profiling, a segment of the program in which the college works closely with local business and industry. A job profile, developed by companies who plan to use Work Keys for hiring and promotion, sets specific skill levels for specific jobs. The Work Keys assessment can then be compared to job requirements.

At the next step Shelton students will receive targeted instruction based on their individual assessment results. Students will receive instruction in two ways, either by text-based booklets or through computer-based interactive instruction. The final phase of Shelton's Work Keys plan deals with the sales and marketing of the program to business and industry through the Center for Advanced Productivity.

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WYNN JOINS SHELTON

Cordell Wynn, President Emeritus of Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, was recently named special assistant to the president of Shelton State Community College. The announcement, which was made by Shelton President Rick Rogers, was effective October 1 and creates a new part-time position at the college.

In the new position, Wynn will be working with Rogers on various projects and initiatives that will enhance Shelton State Community College. Wynn, who served as president of Stillman College for over 15 years, is also Trustee Emeritus of the University of Alabama System and a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International. Wynn will also pay special attention to Shelton's C.A. Fredd Campus with emphasis on funding from all sources, public and private.

"We are going to be looking at what's available in funding," Wynn said. "We're already funded under Title III. In addition we will be looking for new partnerships for Fredd, especially new technical programs. I would like to see us develop closer and better working relationships with other entities. As an HCBU institution, Fredd qualifies for various national initiatives that can enhance what the campus already offers," Wynn said.

"During my career, I have been involved at the elementary and secondary level and in higher education. However, this will be my first experience with two-year colleges, and I see it as an opportunity to broaden my experiences," Wynn added.

"There is a growing need for technical and vocational training in this area, and I look forward to developing new programs and new partnerships on the Fredd Campus."

MUND NAMED TO NEW STAFF POSITION

Longtime community leader Larry Mund has been named to a new part-time staff position at Shelton State Community College - director of the Lifetime Learning Institute and Volunteer Services. This position will involve, among other things, directing the college's program for people 55 years of age and older.

Mund, who came to Tuscaloosa from New York after World War II, is the retired owner and president of Stein's Shoe Store, a Tuscaloosa tradition that served the community for 44 years. During this time he was a member of the board of directors of the National Shoe Retailers Association, the Wolverine World Wide Retail Style Advisory Board, and served as district vice president of the Alabama Retail Association.

He also served as chair for 17 years of the Tuscaloosa County Parking and Transit Authority, past president of Downtown Tuscaloosa Unlimited and chair of the Downtown Tuscaloosa Revitalization Task Force. The United States Department of Transportation recognized him for service and leadership as the chair of Transit Authority.

HOMECOMING 2000

Shelton State will celebrate Homecoming 2000 the week of November 6 - 9. Activities will be scheduled during the week culminating with a basketball game on November 9. Some of the events scheduled this year are the election of a homecoming queen and court, a retirees luncheon, pep rally, basketball game, bonfire and dance. More information be in the next issue of the *Chronicle*.

NISOD 2000 CONFERENCE

The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) will hold its annual conference May 27 - 30 in Austin, Texas. If you are interested in attending, contact Judy Holland in the president's office. Additional information can be found on the website: www.nisod.org/conference

IT'S QUALITY TIME

Many exciting things have taken place this month as part of the quality movement. A record number of 28 Shelton employees are in the fall TQM class. A spring class is already being planned. Quality Month is a lot of fun and everyone enjoyed the pep rally. A special thanks to the Shelton administration and everyone else who has worked so hard to make the quality movement at Shelton successful.